(b) and (c) The following ten coal mines were closed during the last five years due to exhaustion of extractable reserves:—

Year	No. of mines closed	List of closed mines
1997-1998	1	Mahaveer Khani No. 2 incline
1998-99	2	1. Polampalli 2. Ravindrakhani No. 4 incline
1999-2000	1	Morgans pit
2000-2001	4	1. Mahaveerkhani No. 6 incline 2. Manuguru opencast No. 1 3. Ravindrakhani No. 3 incline 4. Hemachandrapuram
2001-02	2	1. Mahaveerkhani No. 5 incline 2. Goleti No. 2 incline

(d) SCCL is taking steps to re-engineer the closed underground mines wherever conditions are technically and commercially feasible by opencast method. The following closed mines are under examination to exploit the balance extractable reserves through opencast mining:

Sl. No.	Name of the Mine	Reserves (in million tonnes)
1.	Goleti No. 2 Incline	2.899
2.	Mahaveerkhani No. 6 Incline	3.171

Coal Scam in BCCL

†1500. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published on page number 7 of "The Rashtriya Sahara" of 22nd May, 2002 under the caption 'Jharkhand Mein Huye Arabon Ke Ghotale Ke Khilaf Andolan';

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a scam of about Rs. 9500 crores has taken place in the supply of unsuitable coal and the procurement of items in BCCL, Dhanbad;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to punish the guilty persons;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such information.

(c) to (f) A statement is annexed.

Statement

Matters reported in the news item captioned 'Jharkhand Mein Huye Arabon Ke Ghotale Ke Khilaf Andolan' and the reaction of the Government thereto:

Sl. No.	Matters reported in the news item	Reaction of the Government
1	2	3
1	In BCCL, there was mis-appropriation of Rs. 9500 crore in supply of coal and procurement of goods	In the absence of specific details on any particular case of any irregularity, it is not possible to verify the allegation.
2	RN Mishra Committee had reported a stock shortage of 130.14 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 130.79 crore	A stock shortage during 1991-92 of 34.14 (and not 130.14) lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 130.79 crore was detected by annual stock verification team as on 01.04.1992. The RN Mishra Committee was set up on 27.07.1992 to investigate into the stock shortages in BCCL during 1986-87 to 1992-93. The Committee recommended initiation of disciplinary proceedings against coal executives and also system improvement measures. Action on these recommendations has been taken. Action was initiated in 260 cases out of which penalties were imposed in 77 instances.
3	In another report, it was found the coal sent by BCCL to PSUs contains 62.9%	In some cases, quality/grade slippage might have taken place due to

1	2	3
	ash whereas the maximum permissible limit is 50%	variation in seam structure etc. However, realisation has been made onthe basis of analysed grade of coal supplies through joint sampling or third party sampling. Sindri Police Station had registered two cases vide GR case no. 3867/94 and GR case no. 4006/94 against officers and workmen of BCCL & FCI, Sindri. These cases are under the trial at Dhanbad Court.
4	In 1990-91, Vigilance Commission had got an investigation done by Shri A.T. Ray who reported Rs. 200 crore scam in purchase of materials	On 18.06.1997 at the initiative of the then ED(Vig), BCCL, the CMD had engaged Shri A.T. Ray, Ex-GM(IAD) to study various aspects of materials management, scrap management and purchase procedure of BCCL to make in-depth analysis of the inventory management system of BCCL. Shri Ray submitted three study reports dealing with these issues. The reports are not investigation reports and have not reported any huge loss as alleged. Action has been taken on systems improvement measures recommended in the reports.
5	In Jharia, billions of rupees are being misappropriated in the name of sand stowing. The quantity of sand stowed is much less than what is shown on paper. This is the reason for fire prevalent in Jharia reading to loss of coal	For safety of underground mines, sand is used for stowing and stabilisation Due to shortage of departmental infrastructure for sand transportation, some of the requirement is met through private contractors. Transportation and consumption of sand are being regularly checked through various internal control measures.
6	BJP leaders S/Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and Saryu Rai had written a letter dated 3.6.1999 to Prime Minister drawing attention to the scam of Rs. 12,000 crore. But no action has been taken.	The letter dt. 23.4.94 written by the then Additional Secretary to Chairman, CIL, referred to in the letter by Shri Modi, forwarded the report of R.N. Mishra Committee on coal stock shortages in BCCL. Action taken on R.N. Mishra Committee's report elaborated in para 2 above. –

1	2	3
		The letter by Shri Modi also refers to the AT Ray study reports regarding which the action taken has been elaborated in para 4 above. Regarding the letter by Dy. Commissioner, Dhanbad and report of Fuel Research Institute referred to in the letter by Shri Modi, the Sindri Police Station had registered two cases elaborated in para 3 above.

Action-Plan to use available mineral reserve

1501. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action-plan to make best use of available mineral reserves in Andhra Pradesh and rest of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the basic structural reforms initiated by the Government of India in July, 1991 in fiscal, industrial and trade regimes, in order to ensure faster development of mineral sector in the country including State of Andhra Pradesh, the National Mineral Policy was announced by the Central Government in March, 1993. The National Mineral Policy recognized the need for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment and attracting state-of-the art technology in the mineral sector. Implementation of the National Mineral Policy is an ongoing process.

To give effect to the National Mineral Policy, extensive changes have been made in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the rules framed threunder in consultation with State Governments, mining industry, experts etc., wherever necessary. The Government is making all efforts to increase investment in mining sector by creating investment-friendly climate and removing the bottlenecks to attract such investment. For the purpose, interaction